

would be as valuable as a scientific paper, and quite as enlightening; since members would then better appreciate the bigness and the importance of this study—which the House of Delegates at this year's Yosemite session instructed the State Council to submit to the component county societies.

### REFERENDUM ON PROPOSED QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE (BASIC SCIENCE) INITIATIVE LAW FOR CALIFORNIA

**Proposed Qualifying Certificate Law Was Considered in the November Issue.**—The first editorial in last month's CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE discussing some of the provisions in the draft of a qualifying certificate (basic science) law, as referred to the Council of the California Medical Association by its special committee, contained the essential sections of a proposed law to be submitted to the electorate as an initiative on the ballot sheet of the November, 1936, state election.

At the meeting of the Council held in San Francisco on November 2, when a report was made by the special committee concerning the procedures necessary in the submittal of an initiative, the best methods of obtaining the requisite 200,000 signatures were explained, and also the expenses involved, inclusive of the publicity needed to insure the passage of such a law.

The report was carefully considered by the Council, as noted in Item 15 of the Council minutes printed on page 448 of this issue. At Yosemite, in May of the present year, the House of Delegates had cast a unanimous vote in favor of a qualifying certificate (basic science) law, which endorsement in itself was construed as a mandate to the Council. However, because of the amount of expense involved, the Council felt that it would be proper to give the 5,000 members of the Association an opportunity to express their personal reactions to the proposed law; and by unanimous vote of the Council, a referendum to the membership was ordered, the time fixed for closing the ballot being two weeks after the date of mailing. The referendum postcard contained an announcement and a return ballot card, reading as follows:

CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION  
450 Sutter Street  
San Francisco, California

REFERENDUM NO. I

November 12, 1935.

To Association Members:

The Council, conforming to a resolution of the 1935 House of Delegates favoring a Qualifying Certificate (Basic Science) Act, has received the report of the Special Committee on this Act, commented upon in the November CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE (on page 321).

The Council now submits to all members the question as to whether it shall direct the Committee to draft a law, secure the necessary signatures to an initiative petition, and attempt to secure enactment of the law by initiative ballot at the November 1936 election.

Time is important. Members are urged to register their desires by an immediate return of the attached card.

Signed: THE COUNCIL OF THE CALIFORNIA  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION,

Robert A. Peers, President

F. C. Warnshuis, Secretary

George H. Kress, Committee Chairman.

California Medical Association, Referendum, 1935

REFERENDUM NO. I

To the Council:

I record my answer to the Referendum.

Do you favor that the Council shall instruct the Association's special committee to secure a Qualifying Certificate Law by initiative at the 1936 November election, and to that end expend for signatures, postage and clerical expenses approximately \$35,000 of the Association's reserve funds? Yes ☐ No ☐

Signed.....

Address.....

County.....

Detach and Mail Before November 16, 1935

\* \* \*

**Results of the Referendum Vote Not Known at This Writing.**—At the time of this writing, we do not know the trend of the voting. If the members vote in favor of submitting such an initiative law in November, 1936, the special committee, under the direction of the Council, will proceed with promptness in the preparation of the final draft of the law, and will take the other necessary steps to give it a place on next year's state election ballot sheets. If, however, the members do not vote in favor of submitting such an initiative law at the present time, the special committee and Council will continue their studies of the subject for report to the House of Delegates at the San Diego meeting in May, 1936.

\* \* \*

**Later: The Association Members Cast a Five to One Vote in Favor of the Qualifying Certificate Initiative.**—On the day the galley proofs of the December issue reached the editor, he received a letter from Association Secretary Warnshuis that the vote (with more than 2,000 ballots cast), was running about five to one in favor of a qualifying certificate law. It may be of interest, also, that in these first ballots that were cast, the proportion in favor in Los Angeles County was as 13 to 1, in Alameda County, as 4 to 1, and in San Francisco County as 3 to 1.

### QUESTIONNAIRE POLL OF C. M. A. MEMBERS: ON HEALTH INSURANCE

**California Medical Association Takes a Poll of Physicians on the Subject of Health Insurance.**—Item 9 of the Council minutes of its November 2 meeting mentions the attendance of a committee from the Sacramento Society, whose members, at the September 7 meeting of the Council, were requested by the Council to present a questionnaire relating to the taking of a poll of all licensed physicians in California holding

the M. D. degree, as to their approval or non-approval of certain types of health insurance.\*

The text of a questionnaire post card (not yet mailed at this writing) has been prepared and may contain the following queries:

1. Shall the California Medical Association endorse any legislative change in the present system of medical practice? *Yes. No.*

(If your answer to No. 1 is "No," do not answer No. 2 and No. 3.)

2. Are you in favor of compulsory health insurance? *Yes. No.*

3. Are you in favor of voluntary health insurance? *Yes. No.*

(If your answer to No. 3 is "Yes," answer (a), (b), and (c).)

(a) Voluntary health insurance under a plan carried on by the State of California? *Yes. No.*

(b) Voluntary health insurance carried on by lay companies under legislative control? *Yes. No.*

(c) Voluntary health insurance carried on by some form of organization of licensed physicians of California created by legislation? *Yes. No.*

4. Are you a member of the California Medical Association? *Yes. No.*

\* \* \*

**A Full Vote Should Be Cast.**—What the ballots will reveal to the officers and members of the California Medical Association, we do not know. The attention of members is called to the questionnaire because it is important that as large a vote as possible may be secured. The officers of the Association should certainly know the reaction of its members, and, in the present instance, also the points of view of licensed doctors of medicine in California who do not hold membership in the California Medical Association. Members are urged to send in their ballots, after receiving and considering the questionnaire, as promptly as possible.

#### TRIBUTE TO LOS ANGELES NURSES BY PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

**A Deserved Tribute.**—In a recent conference, Dr. George Parrish, Health Officer of the City of Los Angeles, showed the editor a copy of the letter given below, in which President Franklin D. Roosevelt, himself a victim, as is well known, of poliomyelitis, pays deserved tribute to those who, like good soldiers, in the outbreak of that disease in Los Angeles County, in 1934, bravely carried on their duties in the Los Angeles County Hospital at great risk to themselves; an important suggestive fact attested by the large number of nurses still invalidated.† CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE gladly reproduces in facsimile President Roosevelt's words of appreciation, and commends their consideration to the Honorable Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles; for today that Board has the responsibility as

well as the power of properly caring for those afflicted nurses who, in a time of exceptional stress, and under most overcrowded and disheartening conditions, rendered such valiant service to the citizens of Los Angeles County.

The letter of President Roosevelt is as follows:

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 30, 1935.

My dear Doctor Parrish:

It has just come to my attention that some thirty-eight nurses, victims of an infantile paralysis epidemic in Los Angeles, are being cared for in the Los Angeles General Hospital and in the hospital of Physicians and Surgeons in Glendale. My heart goes out to these young sufferers — living martyrs to their unselfish devotion to the nursing profession. I should greatly appreciate it if you would convey to each of them an expression of my fellow feeling for them in the sacrifice they have made and are making.

Any words of mine seem feeble indeed in the face of their affliction; and yet, I cannot restrain the impulse to record my appreciation of their heroism. Because of their suffering the suffering of others was alleviated. They will ever be held in honored reverence for their unselfish ministrations.

Very sincerely yours,



Doctor George Parrish,  
Health Officer of the City of Los Angeles,  
116 Temple Street,  
Los Angeles, California.

#### SYLVATIC PLAGUE IN CALIFORNIA

**Distribution of Plague Among Wild Rodents of the Pacific Coast.**—In the current number of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE appears an article by Dr. K. F. Meyer, Director of the Hooper Foundation for Medical Research, University of California, in which he outlines, in quite an interesting manner, how far afield—both geographically and scientifically—the investigations of the distribution of *Bacillus pestis* infection have taken both Federal and State health authorities. In previous issues this subject has been considered several times, references to articles in this JOURNAL having been printed on page 265 of the May, 1934, magazine; the June number of the same year containing an article on "Selvatic Plague—Its Present Status in California"—a paper submitted at that time in response to our request.

In the article by Meyer and Eddie on page 399, the authors use the preferential spelling, "sylvatic" of the Oxford Dictionary instead of "selvatic"; the word sylvatic or selvatic referring to plague as found in wild rodents, in contrast to plague as observed in rats, domesticated as it were, in rural or urban centers of human population.

\* See October issue, page 305, item 27, and this issue, page 447, item 9.

† See November issue, on page 388, for letter of District Nursing Association, regarding stipends and care given to nurses still incapacitated because of poliomyelitis.